

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 12, 2005. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 13, 15 and 16 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 14.

The Abstract was objected to. Applicant has amended the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,689,625 (Austin). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended include all of the features of Claim 14 in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 14 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

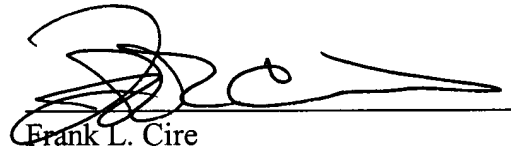
Amended independent Claims 15 and 16 correspond to a method and a storage medium which stores a computer-readable program, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 15 and 16 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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